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CIDAC
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(FOR JAKARTA)

CONGRESSMEN SEEK SELF-DETERMINATION FOR EAST TIMOR (70C)

WASHINGTON -- EIGHTEEN MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ARE SPONSORING A RESOLUTION IN WHICH THE HOUSE WOULD CALL UPON PRESIDENT CARTER TO ENCOURAGE INDONESIA TO WITHDRAW ITS TROOPS FROM EAST TIMOR AND PERMIT INTERNATIONALLY SUPERVISED ELECTIONS.

THE ELECTIONS WOULD BE AIMED AT PROVIDING THE EAST TIMORESE WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO +FREELY EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION.+

THE 18 CONGRESSMEN ARE CURRENTLY CIRCULATING THE RESOLUTION IN AN EFFORT TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF CO-SPONSORS.

IN A LETTER TO OTHER MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE, THE CONGRESSMEN NOTE THAT +EAST TIMOR HAS BEEN COMPARED TO CAMBODIA DUE TO THE HUGE NUMBERS OF SICK AND STARVING

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REFUGEES WHO HAVE BEEN VICTIMIZED BY CONTINUED MILITARY OPERATIONS IN THEIR COUNTRY.

+ALTHOUGH THERE WAS EVIDENCE OF STARVATION IN EAST TIMOR ON A MASSIVE SCALE SEVERAL YEARS AGO,+ THE LETTER SAYS, +INTERNATIONAL RELIEF AGENCIES WERE NOT GIVEN PERMISSION TO OPERATE IN EAST TIMOR UNTIL LAST FALL.

+AND EVEN NOW,+ THE LETTER ADDS, +THE NUMBER OF OUTSIDE PERSONNEL ALLOWED INTO THE TERRITORY IS STRICTLY LIMITED, AND IT IS CLEAR THAT THERE IS A GREAT NEED FOR INCREASED FOOD AID, MEDICINE, AND MEDICAL PERSONNEL IN THE AREA.+

THE CONGRESSMEN ALSO ADVISE THEIR COLLEAGUES THAT +THERE ARE WIDESPREAD REPORTS THAT THOSE EAST TIMORESE WHO WANT TO LEAVE ARE NOT PERMITTED TO DO SO, AND HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES CONTINUE.+

THEY SAY +AN EXPRESSION OF CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN+ IS +VITALLY IMPORTANT.+

THE CONGRESSMEN ARE: THOMAS HARKIN (D-IOWA), WILLIAM BRODHEAD), (D-MICH), FORTNEY STARK (D-CALIF), MATTHEW MCHUGH (D-N.Y.), ROBERT DRINAN (D-MASS), DON BONKER (D-WASH), PAUL

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SIMON (D-ILL), DON EDWARDS (D-CALIF), BERKLEY BEDELL (D-IOWA), ROBERT EDGAR (D-PA), MICHAEL BARNES (D-MD, TONY HALL (D-OHIO), MARC MARKS (R-PA), WILLIAM GRAY (D-PA), JAMES OBERSTAR (D-MINN), THOMAS DOWNEY (D-NY) RICHARD NOLAN (D-MINN), AND DONALD PEASE (D-OHIO).

THE TEXT OF THE RESOLUTION FOLLOWS:

(BEGIN TEXT)

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD TAKE CERTAIN ACTIONS WITH RESPECT TO EAST TIMOR.

WHEREAS AN ESTIMATED 100,000 EAST TIMORESE HAVE DIED FROM STARVATION, DISEASE, AND FIGHTING RESULTING FROM THE INVASION AND OCCUPATION OF EAST TIMOR BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDONESIA=

WHEREAS AN ESTIMATED 400,000 EAST TIMORESE HAVE BEEN DISPLACED FROM THEIR HOMES=

WHEREAS THE MAJORITY OF THE EAST TIMORESE PEOPLE HAVE

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SUFFERED FROM MALNUTRITION AND HUNGER=
WHEREAS THE GOVERNMENT OF INDONESIA REFUSES TO PERMIT THE FREE EMIGRATION OF EAST TIMORESE PEOPLE=
WHEREAS THE GOVERNMENT OF INDONESIA HAS NOT ALLOWED FREE ACCESS TO EAST TIMOR BY THE UNITED NATIONS, RELIEF AGENCIES, HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS, JOURNALISTS, OR CHURCH GROUPS=
WHEREAS THE UNITED NATIONS, THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY UNION, AND THE CONFERENCE OF NON-ALIGNED NATIONS HAVE REPEATEDLY CONDEMNED THE GOVERNMENT OF INDONESIA FOR ITS INVASION AND UNILATERAL ANNEXATION OF EAST TIMOR= AND
WHEREAS THE PEOPLE OF EAST TIMOR HAVE NOT BEEN PERMITTED TO FREELY EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT OF POLITICAL SELF-DETERMINATION: NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT
RESOLVED, THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CALLS UPON THE PRESIDENT TO IMMEDIATELY --
1) INCREASE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO EAST TIMOR BY PROVIDING TO EAST TIMOR THROUGH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS MORE FOOD COMMODITIES, MEDICAL SUPPLIES, AND FUNDS=

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2) ENCOURAGE THE GOVERNMENT OF INDONESIA TO ALLOW THE FREE EMIGRATION OF THOSE EAST TIMORESE WISHING TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY AND TO ALLOW INTERNATIONAL RELIEF PERSONNEL AND JOURNALISTS FREE ACCESS TO EAST TIMOR=
3) ESTABLISH A UNITED STATES PRESENCE IN EAST TIMOR TO MONITOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF RELIEF AID AND THE EMIGRATION OF EAST TIMORESE= AND
4) ENCOURAGE THE GOVERNMENT OF INDONESIA TO WITHDRAW ITS TROOPS FROM EAST TIMOR AND TO ALLOW AN INTERNATIONALLY SUPERVISED ELECTION IN WHICH THE EAST TIMORESE CAN FREELY EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION. (END TEXT)
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